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interview availability

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Sudan through a medical scope:

Relief ministry Mustard Seed International on-site medical director returns to US to provide first-hand knowledge of a 'tough, gracious people'

WHAT: According to UNICEF, South Sudan medical statistics paint an emergent situation for a region which has been devastated by war, famine and religious persecution:

- Infant mortality rate 15 percent
- Child mortality rate 25 percent
- Only 5 percent of births were attended by trained health care workers
- One in nine mothers die during pregnancy or childbirth
- The prevalence of diarrhea in children under the age of five is 45 percent, acute respiratory infection 30 percent and malaria 61 percent
- The prevalence of general malnutrition 48 percent and severe malnutrition or wasting was 21 percent
- Southern Sudan has only one doctor per 100,000 people.

Maintained by relief ministry [Mustard Seed International](#) (MSI), [the Akot Medical Mission](#) is the only medical facility for many miles in the harsh rural surroundings of South Sudan.

WHO: Dr. Clarke McIntosh, MSI medical director, has lived in South Sudan for the past year, providing medical care to the indigenous Dinka people. He has returned to the U.S. for four weeks, before returning to Africa.

Originally from Anderson, S.C., Dr. McIntosh has committed to spending at least four more years in South Sudan. He is the only physician at the Akot Medical Mission, working alongside expatriate and indigenous healthcare providers. The clinic now has an established reputation as a place for excellent medical care.

TOPICS: Dr. McIntosh has had multiple experiences with what he calls the "tough, gracious people" of South Sudan. He has had a front-row seat to witness some of the strongest resiliency of the human condition. One of these occurrences includes watching the tragic unfolding of a mother's death through the eyes of a four-year-old, as she immediately took on the role of surrogate mother for her infant sibling. Dr. McIntosh has many more similar stories he could share and could address additional topics during an interview such as:

- more -

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- Medical challenges among Sudanese pregnant women and infants
- Greatest medical needs in South Sudan
- Healing diseases and illnesses
- Life/death in daily balance
- When needs outweigh supplies
- Perseverance of the human condition

WHEN/

WHERE: Between August 21 and September 12, 2010, by phone

DETAILS:

The Akot Medical Mission opened in October 2006. Since then, tens of thousands of inpatients and outpatients have come to the medical facility, countless of whom have traveled by foot for many miles to receive care from the MSI team of Dr. McIntosh and both expatriate and indigenous staff. During the next three to five years, Dr. McIntosh and MSI hope to get a laboratory established, be able to offer C-sections, establish ultrasound and x-ray, and build an operating theatre.

MSI is built on the belief by founder Lillian Dickson to “present Christ to all we meet, to heal disease and all manner of suffering and to love sincerely and deeply those whose lives we are privileged to touch.” Through medicine, MSI hopes to be God's instrument of love and care to the lost and hurting people of Southern Sudan.

For media materials and more information about Mustard Seed International or the Akot Medical Mission, check out www.mustardseednews.com. To arrange an interview with Dr. Clarke McIntosh, MSI medical director, or Bill Deans, MSI president, please contact Julie Shultz at 972.267.1111 or via e-mail at julie@alarryross.com.